NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

FOUNDED 1964

DECEMBER 1970

Seventy-eigth meeting of
NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL
Wednesday, December 16, 1970, 7:30 P.M.
IL SORRENTO Italian Restaurant
8616 Turtle Creek Blvd.
DALLAS, TEXAS, U.S.A.

PROGRAM: Annual Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet
Installation of Officers for 1971

Several awards will be presented to members who performed outstanding services to NI during 1970 in presenting programs, writing for the Bulletin and other services.

The following officers, who were voted into office by acclamation at the November meeting, will be installed:

PRESIDENT:	K. T. "Ed" Edwards
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Ross Schraeder
SECRETARY:	James L. Ferrell
TREASURER:	Bill German

The total cost (including tips and favors) will be $5.75 per person. Members are urged to bring guests.

If you have not made your reservation yet, DO IT TODAY by contacting Dinner Chairman Edward E. Slade, Jr.
Phone: 351-6662

WINNING DISPLAYS OF NOVEMBER EXHIBIT NIGHT WILL BE AT DINNER

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Attribution Service.....ROBT. L. TOMLINSON
Christmas Dinner & Awards Banquet.....EDW. E. SLADE, JR.
Fifth Annual Exhibit Meeting.....ROSS SCHRAEDER

The Board of Governors and Staff join in wishing each and every member of NI a JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

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Staff Reports & Club News

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

521-MT Ernest E. Bertolini, P. O. Box 369, York Beach, Maine 03910 -- (British Commonwealth & Africa)

486-MT Wm. L. Robinson, 4014 Eighth Ave. N.E. #4, Seattle, Washington 98105 -- (Chinese - Struck and Cast)

376-MT Cpt. Albert J. Ruh, Box A, USAE, HQ, MACV, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96222 -- (Siam)

NOVEMBER APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Membership Applications #542-551 published in the November Bulletin have been admitted to membership.

DECEMBER APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by January 1, 1971 their membership will become effective that date. (MT - Will Trade by Mail).

552-MT George Foster, 264 Pearl St., Springfield, Mass. 01105 -- (World Types)

553-MT C. W. Gutteridge, 81 Wandle Road, Morden, Surrey, England -- (Ancient & Medieval)

554-MT William K. Newton, 2560 Springmont St., Jacksonville, Florida 32207 -- (World Types)

555-MT James B. Boskey, 19 Shire Hall Close, London N.W.4, England -- (World Types)

556-MT Kenneth D. Smith, USA SPEC. SERV. AGCY.-EUR, APO New York 09184 -- (Crowns & Medals)

557-MT Eugene E. Race, P. O. Box 5336, San Diego, Calif. 92105 -- (Commemorative Crowns & Medieval)

558 Mrs. Jack E. Lewis, 7607 Azalea Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230 -- (Non-collector)

559 Paul Simon Essof, Sisterville, West Virginia 26175 (Dealer in World Coins)

560-MT O. D. Cresswell, 363 Oldpark Road, Belfast 16, N. Ireland -- (War Medals, British Coinage of Far East)

561-MT Virgil R. Chilson, Woodland Hills, Calif. 91364 (Chinese Cash)

RESULTS OF FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBIT NIGHT:

Seventeen awards were presented to the winning exhibitors at the Fifth Annual Exhibit Night. Eleven of the fourteen competitive exhibits came away with an award. Winners and titles of the exhibits are as follows:

MODERN WORLD COINS:
1st Place - Marvin L. Fraley
"BRAZIL - National Heroes & Famous Men Series - 1935-1939"
2nd Place - Jack E. Lewis
"Archbishopric of Salzburg"
3rd Place - Robert L. Tomlinson
"Between North & South America as Seen in Dollar-Sized Coins"

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL:
1st Place - Ross Schraeder
"Medieval Silver Pennies of England"
2nd Place - Irving Berlin
"Medieval Coins and History"
3rd Place - H. C. Ruyle
"Ptolemies 323-30 B.C."

PAPER MONEY:
1st Place - William E. Benson
"The Axis in Greece 1941-44"
2nd Place - Jack E. Lewis
"Canadian Currency"
3rd Place - No exhibit.

TOPICAL:
1st Place - K. T. "Ed" Edwards
"The Age of Napoleon in Coins & Medals"
2nd Place - William E. Benson
"Mafeking Siege - South Africa 1900"
3rd Place - Robert L. Tomlinson
"Coins of Conflict"

Special awards for Research and Innovation were awarded as follows:

QUALITY OF NUMISMATIC RESEARCH:
1st Place - Ross Schraeder
"Medieval Silver Pennies of England"
2nd Place - Marvin L. Fraley
"BRAZIL - National Heroes & Famous Men Series - 1935-1939"
3rd Place - William E. Benson
"Mafeking Siege - South Africa 1900"

MOST UNUSUAL & INNOVATIVE DISPLAY:
1st Place - K. T. "Ed" Edwards
"The Age of Napoleon in Coins & Medals"
2nd Place - Marvin L. Fraley
"BRAZIL - National Heroes & Famous Men Series - 1935-1939"
3rd Place - Robert L. Tomlinson
"Between North & South America as Seen in Dollar-Sized Coins".

The "FOUNDERS TROPHY" for BEST OF SHOW went to Marvin L. Fraley for his exhibit - "BRAZIL - National Heroes & Famous Men Series - 1935-1939".

First Place Exhibits in all categories and special awards will be on exhibit at the December "Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards Banquet", along with all ribbons and trophies.

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MEDALLIONS BEARING THE PORTRAIT OF A MUSICIAN

by Dr. John Bottenheim, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

For the first time in history a unique exhibition of coins, medals and plaques showing exclusively the portrait or the name of a musician was held this past summer in the large foyer of the concert building "De Doelen" at Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Apart from the H. Schrijver Collection (formerly the Johan Alsbach Collection) of more than 1500 copies, the exhibition included 800 pieces from my own collection and special copies from several other collections. An important entry of modern medals was from "la Monnaie" in Paris. This institution has commissioned some of the most famous medalists to make a large number of medals.

The exhibition was a complete musical history in coins and medals: from Guido of Arezzo, by way of the most important representatives of the Dutch school, such as Guillaume Dufay, J. van Okeghem, Josquin des Pres, Orlando di Lasso, via Palestrina and Lully, composers like Handel and Bach, the Viennese classics, the Romantic period up to Richard Wagner, the modern musicians and avant-gardists, one or more medals of all these composers were shown. Even Edgar Varese, Pierre Boulez and Charles Ives were present, to say nothing of the very special medals of Schoenberg, Alban Berg and Webern. Of course many executive artists were presented.

From Ludvig van Beethoven were shown more than 80 medals; from Richard Wagner the same amount. Even the rare Handel-tokens, which circulated as a kind of emergency money in English society at the last decade of the 18th century, were presented in a great many varieties (21 copies).

A very impressive quantity of medals and coins of high quality! The whole exhibition was presented in 36 showcases in a very original and modern way. All medals were put down on blocks of different size and at different levels. The exhibition, of which I was the organizer, with the assistance of the directors of "De Doelen", obtained a very large turnout as more than 20,00 visitors attended.

O-B-I-T-U-A-R-Y

JOSEPH A. MAZZA, Member #157 (March 1966):

With deep regret, we report that Joseph A. Mazza died of cancer on October 26, 1970. Joe, having joined NI in March 1966, was very active in mail trading and had many friends throughout the NI membership. (Members with outstanding balances from trading with Joe should settle them as soon as possible.)

BULLET MONEY OF SIAM

by Albert J. Ruh

(Following is a letter written by Mr. Ruh to "Coins of the World 1750-1850" author William D. Craig. This letter outlines several corrections to the Siam section of Craig's "Coins of the World". Anyone that might have additions or corrections to the suggestions outlined by Mr. Ruh should contact him direct so that any changes to be made in future editions of "Coins of the World" will be as accurate as possible.)

For some time I have been collecting Siamese coins. Your book, "Coins of the World", has been one of my references. As my collection and study of bullet money has progressed I have found that in several instances the Siam section of the book is in error. I submit the following for your consideration in the event a revised edition is planned.

The principle reference used by most collectors of Siamese coins has been LeMay's "Coinage of Siam". Since its publication in 1932 some of LeMay's conclusions have been found in error.

I shall take the errors in the order listed in "Coins of the World" and append the proper references, when available, so you may readily check them out.

Page 729: Statement that Pya Tak did not issue identifiable coins. The National Museum in Bangkok identifies the "Tri" mark with Pya Tak. I can offer evidence to refute the arguments of LeMay on P69 of his book, but they are too lengthy to repeat here. I feel the National Museum is adequate authority.

Recommend that Pya Tak be referred to as King Taksin. Many recent publications on Thailand refer to him by this title, for example: "Chinese Society in Thailand" by G. W. Skinner, Cornell, 1957, P20. He was king during the Thonburi period, 1767-82.

Some coins of the "Tri" and "Unalom" marks are found with both single and/or double hammermarks. See LeMay P74-75.

Page 730: Dynastic mark: "Chakra". The style illustrated is the type found on coins with the "Tri" and "Unalom" marks. Later issues used variations of this style, most with six spokes and dots. The National Museum has made up cards illustrating the different styles based upon Nai Kularb's article of 1908. In both cases the spokes are shown going clockwise. Actually they go counterclockwise, per your illustration.

"Tri" mark #4-6: As previously noted, these coins belong to King Taksin. The National Museum lists the 1/16 and 1/8 baht sizes. They also display one, I cannot recall which one. Chelerm Yongbungert in "Thai Coinage", P66, lists a 1/32 size in addition. Therefore, six denominations are known; i.e. 1/32, 1/16, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 and 1 baht. All except the 1 baht (#6) are very rare. See LeMay, P77 and JSS, Vol X, P42.

"Unalom" mark #8-14: The 2 Baht size, #14, is very rare. See LeMay, P74 and JSS, Vol X, P115. Yongbungert mentions also a 3/4 baht size. I feel that so few specimens are available that they need not be listed. A comprehensive note could be used to indicate that other than the standard sizes may exist. This would apply to all the different marks.

"Krut" mark #17-20: All sizes other than 1 Baht, #20, are very rare. See LeMay P77. I have not heard of any other denominations.

"Krut Sio" mark #31: Presentation coin. See LeMay P78.

"Chaleo" mark #39: Same as above. Both are not very common but can be found.

Page 731: "Prasat" mark #42-48: The two baht, #48, is extremely rare. This coin falls into the same category as #14.

"Dok Mai" mark #51-56: This coin does not have the "Chakra" as noted by #51. See JSS, Vol X, P43. #55 and 56 are very rare. Ulrich Guehler (JSS, Vol X, P41) states that on the 1 baht size the "Dok Mai" mark is repeated four times within a frame. Apparently the small die was used to make the mark. I believe, along with Guehler (JSS, Vol X, P41) and mentioned by LeMay, P83, that the "Arrowhead" is a variant of the "Dok Mai", having a "Chakra" in addition to the "Dok Mai" mark.

"Bai Matum" mark #61-66: This coin does not have the "Chakra". #65 and 66 are very rare.

"Ruang Pueng" mark #71-74: This coin does not have the "Chakra".

"Arrowhead" mark #81-84: Most likely the second issue of the "Dok Mai" mark.

Page 732: "Mongkut" mark #133-139: Guehler mentions another rarity -- a 3/4 baht coin.

Cmkd. Coins #141: Extremely rare, see Guehler (JSS, Vol X, P45). Also mentioned on P116 is a cmkd. Peruvian dollar. A Bangkok dealer warned me of counterfeits.

On page 80 LeMay mentions bullet coins with two reign marks. I have four coins of this type and have seen a few others. In my opinion, these coins were purposely made for presentation at cremations and/or temple dedications. I cannot quote any definite authority for this conclusion other than references mentioning the distribution of coins at this type of ceremony.

References:

LeMay, Reginald "Coinage of Siam" Siam Society, 1961
"Studies of Old Siamese Coins" Vol X, Siam Society, 1961
Nai Kulark "Guide to General Knowledge" 1908
Yongbungert, Charlerm "Thai Coinage" 1966

(Note: First two references in English -- last two are in Thai.)

There are many replica coins, made for use on bracelets and necklaces, that are floating around. These are often of silver and more crude than the official coins. Some are of silver plated copper. I have also seen a crude 2 baht "Krut" mark fake.

Suggest the kings of the Thonburi and Bangkok periods be listed as follows:

THONBURI PERIOD:
King Taksin, 1767-82

BANGKOK PERIOD:

Rama I (Phra Buddha Yot Fa)	1782-1809
Rama II (Phra Buddha Lot La)	1809-1824
Rama III (Phra Nang Klao)	1824-1851
Rama IV (Mongkut)	1851-1868

The use of Rama was initiated by Rama VI (Wachirawut) and is quite acceptable for use. It is easier to use than the longer names.

In hopes I have been of some assistance,

Yours truly,

/s/ Albert J. Ruh

1971 DUES:

Dues of $4.00 per year were ratified in a vote by the members present and voting at the November 1970 meeting.

The $4.00 dues include seamail delivery to those members overseas, except that those members who have an APO or FPO address shall receive airmail delivery. All mailings to stateside members will be by first class mail delivery.

Additional charges for airmail delivery will be as follows:

$3.00 per year in those areas where the US airmail rate is 15¢ per half-ounce (West Indies, Central and South America).

$4.00 per year in those areas where the US airmail rate is 20¢ per half-ounce (Western and Central Europe, N. Africa).

$5.00 per year in those areas where the US airmail rate is 25¢ per half-ounce (Africa other than North Africa, Australia and Asia).

1971 DUES ARE NOW DUE AND SHOULD BE PAID PROMPTLY.

BACK ISSUES OF NI BULLETIN FOR SALE:

All issues listed in the October 1970 NI Bulletin are still available, along with all subsequent issues.

CLEANING IRON COINS

by Thomas B. Hamilton

Hardware stores sell just what you need: Naval Jelly, a wire brush with steel (or iron) bristles (not copper or brass bristles, please) and 3-in-1 oil (petroleum jelly OK too).

Use the Naval Jelly as directed, then brush lightly. Repeat if needed. Dry coin with clean rag or towel. Heat coins over open flame to rapidly evaporate remaining moisture (before it can start to ixidize, i.e., rust). As soon as coins are cool enough to handle, apply a light coat of oil with clean hands or clean rag (not the same one previously used).

This method is not infallible, but, it's the best I know. If the coin is going to rust again, it will do so in a few days. If it survives 10-14 days without re-rusting, it may last from now on. I have some pieces cleaned over two years ago that are just as nice as the day I cleaned them.

Yes, I know some of you purists frown on cleaning coins, but, iron coins? Please be realistic.

"HOW BIG DO THEY COME DEPARTMENT - REVISITED"

by Patrick D. Hogan

In the August 1969 NI Bulletin it was proposed that the largest, and perhaps heaviest, coins issued were cast in China's Fukien Province during the reign of Hsien-feng (1851-1861). (One coin issued by the Fukien authorities, a value 100 piece, weighed 207 grams, over 6½ ounces; it was 71 mm. in diameter. A similar piece is known to be 77 mm., but the weight is not known.)

Since this article was written several other candidates for the largest and/or heaviest coins have been proposed -- all of which have failed to meet my standards, which, unfortunately, were not set down in the first place.

It is felt that the Swedish plate money, which, though qualifying as currency, should be disqualified as an "odd-and-curious" piece of currency. I should have stated that the coins must be round in shape.

A more serious contender is the Mughal 200 mohur gold coin of Shah Jahan, 1064/1654. This has been called the largest gold coin in the world. Even larger would be the 200 rupee Mughal coin, as a rupee weighs more in grams than a mohur, normally. Whereas the gold piece weighs over 70 ounces and measures 5-3/8", the silver rupee of Aurangzeb, 1083/1671-2, weighs 2.275 kg., or a little over 5 lbs. It measures only 4.7 inches, however.

These two worthies are disqualified on the evidence put forth by the Indian experts. R. B. Whitehead calls them "medals" and cites the renowned Indian numismatist, S. H. Hodivala. In his papers, "Some Notable Coins of the Mughal Emperors", printed in the "Numismatic Chronicle", Whitehead states "As regards their purpose, Mr. Hodivala gives ample reason for the conclusion that 'these phenominal issues were merely massive ingots of artistically stamped bullion which were hoarded as stores of value, and occasionally presented to ambassadors, diplomatic agents, and the other distinguished persons as complimentary gifts or souvenirs of the imperial favour and munificence'. This opinion is based on no less than thirty passages taken from native chronicles."

Most of these were melted down to provide metal for local coinages and few survive.

BINDERS FOR NI BULLETINS:

A few extra binders are still available on a first-come, first-served basis. Delivery on all binders will be made shortly. Don't be left out as another order will not be made for some time -- Cost $2.50 each. Put on order blank.

SCHUBERT REPORTS ON DENMARK Y12 VARIETY

Richard Schubert, 5536 West 26th St., Cicero, Illinois 60650 recently reported finding an unusual specimen of the Danish 25 ore coin of 1874. He states he is not at present in a position to fully investigate the item but wishes to make the details public for anyone that might be interested.

The specimen is 18mm in diameter, compared to the normal 16.5 mm of the Y12 series of 1874 and subsequent years. The design appears to be the same as on the normal Y12 and seems to be of the same dimensions. The coin bears the heart mintmark of the Copenhagen mint and the initials of the mintmaster, Christian Svendsen, as do the Y12's.

Dick reports he first thought the coin was struck on the wrong planchet. However, there are no 18mm coins in the Danish series, neither in the 1874 designs nor in the predecessor issue. He did not know of any foreign coins that were struck at Copenhagen at that time.

1874 was the first year that Denmark issued coins under the decimal system and the first appearance of the krona/ore denominations. Perhaps these new coins--the 25 ore, possibly others--were struck in two different sizes during 1874. Or possibly the 18mm specimen is a pattern piece.

Dick would appreciate hearing from anyone having information or speculation about this coin. He would also like to ask everyone reading this to check the 1874 specimens of all denominations in his collection and advise him of any odd size pieces.

OTHER VOICES

"Ethiopia Observer", A Journal of Independent Opinion, Economics, History and the Arts, edited by Richard and Rita Pankhurst, Vol. VIII, No. 4, 1965. pp. 273-416, illus., 8½ x 10½, 90¢.

This particular issue of the "Ethiopia Observer" is of much value to the collector of Ethiopian currencies. The entire issue deals with the banking, currency regulations and fiscal systems of the African state. Of particular interest is the 50-page article by Richard Pankhurst, "The History of Currency and Banking in Ethiopia from the Middle Ages to 1935", which discusses the whole range of Ethiopian currencies, from the odd-and-curious to the beginnings of modern coins and paper notes. It is a useful supplement to Kohl's recent monograph, "Ethiopia -- Treasure House of Africa". This back issue of the journal can be obtained from Miss Freda Holmans, 57, Carter Lane, London, E.C.4., England. (Subscription rate: $4.00)

Review--Patrick D. Hogan

Member Notice Page

James E. Hayes, P. O. Box 34562, Dallas, Texas 75234: I collect all Swiss coins by date and mintmark and would like to buy or trade. Especially wanted: Crowns before 1920.

Dr. John Bottenheim, Schubertstraat 18, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: WANTED: Musicians medallions, especially American medals. Also want Stephen C. Foster half-dollar, silver, 1936 Cincinnati.

Darryl Yoblick, 544 Minnesota Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215: I need Cuban paper money, high grade minors, gold and crowns, especially Y1, 2 and 16. I also collect Philippine coins under U.S. Sovereignty and need Y15 1915-S; Y16 1916-S; Y18 1903-S; Y22 1909-S, 1910-S, 1911-S, 1915-S; Y19 1903-S; Y23 1910-S, 1911-S, 1912-S; Y21 1905-S, 1906-S, 1911-S, 1912-S; and many others in higher grades. I have choice world crowns, commemoratives and minors to trade. All letters answered.

Fred Drost, 110 Ridgefield St., Meriden, Conn. 06450: WANTED: Information on W and H mintmarks on coins of Egypt. Please give denomination, date and regnal date.

Don Mac Rae, 30 McAllister St, Ottawa 10, Ontario, Canada: WANTED: German coins, notgeld and paper money in any quantity. Will trade my world coins.

WOODWARDS'S "THE MINTED TEN-CASH COINS OF CHINA"

NI Member Michael Robert Fried, P. O. Box 12217, Oakland, California 94604 has announced that he is reprinting the popular reference on Chinese Cash by Woodward -- "The Minted Ten-Cash Coins of China".

The reprint will be hardbound and will retail at $12.50. It will be issued in late January and will be available at a prepublication price of $10.50.

Mr. Fried has kindly offered the book to NI members at a discount.

Prepublication price to NI Members -- $9.50 Postpaid.

Postpublication price to NI Members-- $11.25 Postpaid.

This reprint will not be offered by the club -- members should send their orders direct to Mr. Fried at the above address. Order now and save the difference of $1.75 in the Prepublication and Postpublication prices.